

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY

7:00 P.M.

JANUARY 8, 2014

This Regular Meeting of Council was called to order on the above-stated date at the above-stated time after the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence by President of Council Richard Dellapenna with the following Members of Council present:

RC-1 PRESENT: DALE McCALL, JAMES BARRY, JAMIE BREWSTER-FILOTEI, DANIEL CARR, RICHARD DELLAPENNA, KEITH SOLES

ABSENT: FAWN WALKER-MONTGOMERY

Mr. Dellapenna said he would like to have a moment of silence for the troops that are fighting and have fought for them.

Reverend Boniface Igba from the McKeesport Ministerium led the prayer.

Ms. Williams said Ms. Walker-Montgomery is unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Also present were Mayor Michael Cherepko, City Administrator Matthew Gergely, City Solicitor J. Jason Elash and members of the Administration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Mr. Carr moved, seconded by Mr. Soles, "To approve the minutes for the Public Hearings of December 3, 2013 at 6:15 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. and the Regular Meeting of Council on December 3, 2013, at 7:00 p.m."

RC-2 YEAS: McCALL, BARRY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR,
DELLAPENNA, SOLES..... 6

NAYS: NONE..... 0

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Received a letter from Tom Croft, Executive Director, Steel Valley Authority, and Thomas Michlovic, Vice-Chairman, Steel Valley Authority Board of Directors, notifying the City that the term of Lori Schmidt as a member of the Board will be expiring on December 31, 2013. Ms. Williams said they are recommending that she be reappointed for a full term.

MOTION: **Mr. Soles moved, seconded by Mr. McCall, "To reappoint Lori Schmidt to the Steel Valley Authority for a full term."**

RC-3 YEAS: McCALL, BARRY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR,
DELLAPENNA, SOLES..... 6

NAYS: NONE..... 0

- Received notification from the Allegheny League of Municipalities that the 2014 Spring Conference will be held at Seven Springs, April 3-6, 2014. Ms. Williams said if anyone is going, they will have to let her know.
- Received a memorandum from Bryan J. Washowich, Chief of Police, RE: December 2013 statistics.
- Received a letter from the Twin Rivers Council of Governments asking who the City's representative and alternate representative will be to the TRCOG. Ms. Williams said she thinks the Mayor is the representative.
 - Mayor Cherepko said he is the representative and will continue in that spot.

- Mr. Dellapenna said Ms. Brewster-Filotei said she was interested in this position. He said he needs a motion to approve Ms. Brewster-Filotei as the alternate representative.

MOTION: **Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Mr. Barry,
"To appoint Ms. Brewster-Filotei as the
alternate representative to the TRCOG."**

RC-4 YEAS: McCALL, BARRY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR,
 DELLAPENNA, SOLES..... 6

 NAYS: NONE..... 0

- Received two reports from the McKeesport Fire Department Chief Kevin Lust. One is a yearly summary and the other is the report for December 2013.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Cherepko said he would first like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. He said he is excited about what they have upcoming here in the City. He said when he looks in this room, he is very pleased to have his colleagues serve on this Council, individuals that truly have the best interest of the City at heart as they move forward and look to overcome the many obstacles and challenges that lie ahead of them. He said there is only one way to do that and that is by working together. He said he thinks it is extremely important. He said that does not mean that they are going to agree on everything but without question, it means that they all have the same goal. He said this is a Council that has that goal and he is extremely excited to work with each and every one of them. He said once again he would like to publicly congratulate the new members who were sworn in the other evening. He said he would like to congratulate Mr. Dellapenna as President and Mr. McCall as the Vice

President. He said the last few days they had some extreme weather conditions. He said the City opened a warming center. He said he met on Monday afternoon with Emergency Management Coordinator Bill Miller along with Chief Washowich, Chief Lust, Matt Gergely, City Electrician Tom Rosso, and Public Works Director Steve Kondrosky. He said he wanted to commend their efforts. He said the City was very fortunate at this point. He said he doesn't know if it is over yet because they still had a couple of water line breaks that took place today but hopefully they know that the extreme cold weather is over. He said he is truly grateful for the preparations of the team, each and every one of them. He said they only had one person stop by the warming center that they had open all night. He said it was available and one individual whose car broke down came into the center. He said they were at least there for them. He said it is actually a good thing when they don't have to have people there. He said it is not something that they regret, because they were prepared to be there for the residents. He said not last evening, but Monday evening into Tuesday morning, they did lose power in Grandview and on Versailles Avenue. He said two lines were down and they were sitting in the car looking at the ... he feels like he is repeating himself but wants to tell the audience who was not here earlier ... it was minus 7 degrees outside and to see Duquesne Light up there in their buckets, the Chief and he were talking about how unbelievable Duquesne Light's response time was, it was second to none. He said he would like to publicly thank Duquesne Light ... he has already sent them a letter ... for their quick response time. He said Grandview power was out for roughly twenty minutes and Versailles was out for under an hour. He said no one had to be removed from their homes. He said everyone's efforts were very much appreciated as well as that of Duquesne Light.

- Mayor Cherepko said he has two more things. He said the second thing is the contracts. He said on the agenda this

evening, Council will be voting on two contracts which are two of the bargaining agreements. He said one is Public Works which consists of the Streets, Parks and Traffic Department and the other is the Clerical which are a lot of ladies in City Hall. He said he wanted to commend the Unions because the only reason a new contract was possible was because of concessions in health care. He said they are doing things a little differently now with the new contract and they are taking a little more money out of the employees' pocket which will ultimately help the City by changing the utilization of the healthcare. He said they can't continue to do the same thing over and over again and wonder why they don't get a different result. He said now they have some deductibles that are not reimbursed and a wellness program that they will take part in. He said this is what they needed to do to help with the increase in the healthcare premium from utilization. He said the premiums have gone up because of utilization. He said now that the money comes out of their pocket, the employees will think a little bit before they go to the doctors. He said that allowed the City to offer a fair contract with a minimal increase in wages. He said the tremendous savings they received in healthcare because of the changes was unbelievable and remarkable. He said it allowed them to negotiate a two year contract. He said he wants to commend them for understanding that this had to change. He said they did understand. He said he is very pleased they were able to come to this solution. He said the healthcare increases that they were faced with were unbelievable. He said the Administration team along with their independent healthcare broker, who wears two hats right now, Mr. Jim Barry, got the job done. He said Jim Barry is a representative of TJS. He said Mr. Barry's efforts need to be applauded. He said the City went from an \$801,000 increase to ... when it is all said and done, he doesn't have an exact number but it will probably be somewhere in the ballpark of only a \$150,000 increase. He said that was just by changing not all of the bargaining units, but just the two units. He said in the

efforts of changing them in the different groups, he has to publicly thank Mr. Gergely for his efforts along with Mr. Barry and the Administrative team. He said once again he would like to thank the employees for understanding that they had to change because it is not easy. He said when you work for someone for 10 years, 20 years or 30 years and you get used to things being a certain way.... He said it is not easy to all of the sudden change the game. He said they stepped up to the plate and realized the financial condition of the City and stepped up to the plate.

- Mayor Cherepko said the last thing he has is about the unity that he talked about earlier and what it is going to take to move this City forward. He said they have a slogan, "Working together for a better McKeesport," and they believe it is much more than a slogan. He said it is an invitation for anyone ... any resident, any employee or anyone in the City or even outside the City. He said there are people who were once part of the City and take part in some of the events they have throughout the year. He said working together for a better McKeesport. He said to kick off the New Year, he has a late Christmas present for Council that he would like to pass out. He said he was already able to give these to the Department heads. He said if Mr. Gergely would help him out He said it starts with the City logo that he personally got. He said he did not want to use taxpayer money although his salary is taxpayer money. He handed out the gifts. He said if he may ... he can't help the educator in himself as a former teacher ... obviously the shirts mean unified ... and are something that our Council members are very involved in the community ... the Department heads when they are out in the community and represent the City and it shows unity. He said he can't help that the underlying message is a teacher. He said the last thing is that they can't help but notice where the logo is ... on the left side of the chest where the heart is. He said it is a reminder to each and every one of them to remember that when they wear that shirt and serve the City, and they

take the oath of office as they all have done, including the ones just a couple of days ago. He said they will remember they are there to defend the City, represent the City and move the City forward. He said most of all, no matter what decision they make, they should have the best interest of the City at heart. He said that is his underlying message to keep that logo on the left side of the chest. He said for each and every one of them, he wants to say thank you for all they do. He said he looks forward to working with them. He said that concludes his report.

- Council members said thank you Mayor.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

- Ms. Brewster-Filotei said she wanted to say that most of them know she is a school teacher and has been home during these cold temperatures with her kids safe and sound. She said she wanted the EMS, Police and Fire to know that she was thinking and praying for them because they don't get snow days or two-hour delays. She said she appreciates everything they do.
- Mr. Barry said he has nothing to report.
- Mr. Soles said he has nothing to report.
- Mr. Carr said he has nothing to report.
- Mr. McCall said he just has one little thing to say. He said he has some good news that the Mayor did not share with everyone about the budget and where the City ended the year.
 - Mayor Cherepko said yes.

- Mr. McCall said he did not mean to put him on the spot but thinks the Mayor should pat himself on the back a little bit.
- Mayor Cherepko said he appreciates that. He said he would like to think a lot of that had to do with the efforts of the Administration and the ladies they have at City Hall. He said they finished the year much better than what they thought. He said it is still not good by any means. He said for those who attend the meetings regularly, they heard him talk about a \$2 million deficit that without question the City had. He said they had it the year before and their expenses did not change much in 2013, so therefore the deficit should have been roughly the same. He said the City did pretty well. He said he came to Council to borrow \$900,000 and they did utilize that. He said he came to Council in December for another \$600,000 and he is very pleased to say that they did not need to use the \$600,000. He said the efforts of Mr. Gergely, the ladies in City Hall and the rest of the Administrative team of going after the delinquencies and other claimed revenues that were out there and put on the last several months. He said they really did not really wait until November but it was something they focused on all year and he thinks that brought their revenues in, not just through December as much, but throughout the entire year brought them up a little bit. He said they had an influx of revenues in December that was very shocking and they went after a couple of large delinquencies and were able to finally settle with those. He said he applauds their efforts. He said the numbers are much better although not where they need to be, but much better than anticipated. He said they will go into 2014 and have some increases that are inherent. He said healthcare was going to be a major increase but as he just told them, they were able to drive that down a good bit. He said they are keeping their fingers

crossed. He said also keep in mind that although expenses are going up, such as increased wages in the budget and the increase in the healthcare, but there was some savings too when they had employees retire. He said as nice as it is as Mayor, there is not a day goes by that at least one person asks him for a job. He said it is very easy as Mayor to say he will take care of them and try to get them a job, but unfortunately, when he has the best interest of the City at heart it is not a possibility in the City's financial situation. He said a lot of the buyouts they did, where they gave people money, they did not really reap the benefits of those. He said they may have saved a little money throughout the year but in 2014 those people are totally out of the budget so there will be a greater savings this year. He said they still have to do something major. He said the City is, without question, on the brink of Act 47. He said the year did finish much better than he thought. He said he has Mr. Gergely to thank and the ladies that worked so hard and worked together. He said they talk about working together ... it is easy in unions to say this is not my job ... but this is a group that pulls together. He said they don't care when it delinquency time and maybe just one or two people are working, they have 10, 11, 12 people down there stuffing envelopes and getting letters out. He said that was not their job, but they did it. He said he truly appreciates everything they do. He said thank you Mr. McCall.

- Mr. Dellapenna said all he has this evening is that there was a vacancy created in the Personnel Committee. He said Mr. Soles expressed interest in that Committee. He said he needs a motion to appoint Mr. Soles to the Personnel Committee.

MOTION: Mr. Carr moved, seconded by Ms. Brewster-Filotei, "To appoint Mr. Soles to the Personnel Committee."

RC-5 YEAS: McCALL, BARRY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR,
DELLAPENNA, SOLES..... 6

NAYS: NONE..... 0

- Mr. Gergely said he would like to request a motion regarding the donation of the twenty green and twenty red LED traffic lights. He said there are actually 40 traffic signal inserts that will be donated to the Mayor of Glassport for their traffic signal upgrade this year that is scheduled. He said the City has an abundant amount of them. He said the life of those is ten years and they have more than they will ever need for the City. He said the request for the donation of 40 traffic light inserts to the Borough of Glassport.

MOTION: Mr. Soles moved, seconded by Mr. McCall, "To approve the donation of 40 traffic light inserts to the Borough of Glassport."

RC-6 YEAS: McCALL, BARRY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR,
DELLAPENNA, SOLES..... 6

NAYS: NONE..... 0

CITIZENS IN THE AUDIENCE:

There were no citizens in the audience who wished to speak.

OLD BUSINESS:

BILL #151: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A LIQUOR LICENSE FROM THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH INTO THE CITY OF McKEESPORT TO PROVIDE FOR THE OPERATION OF A PRIVATE CLUB AT 623 LONG RUN ROAD, McKEESPORT, PA.

- Mr. Dellapenna said Bill #151 will remain on the Table.
- Mr. Gergely said he will contact them again to find out what the situation is.
- Mr. Dellapenna said those folks were supposed to come in and talk to Council and they have not done so yet.
- Mr. Elash said they should give them one more month because they were asked to write a letter that would be considered at the last Council meeting. He said that is probably how they got license on the door. He said they will tell them if they don't come to the meeting next month, then they will have to send a letter stating that they are no longer reviewing the request.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE #14-1 – BILL #4: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, DESIGNATING WILLIAM R. MILLER, THE CITY'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR, TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO REQUEST FUNDS UNDER THE ROBERT T. STAFFORD DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT.

MOTION: **Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Mr. Carr, "To adopt Bill #4."**

COMMENTS:

- Mayor Cherepko said this Bill is to authorize the Emergency Management Coordinator Bill Miller to go after federal funding for the storms they had last year. He said the City can get somewhere between \$80,000 to \$100,000. He said that is a ballpark and it keeps changing because they keep finding more things they can go after. He said that could be

another \$100,000 that was written off that the City did not plan on getting back. He said it is something new because it has to be passed by ordinance. He said Mr. McCall sits on the Sewage Authority and they are looking to do the same thing separately. He said the City had sewage collapses along Ravine Street and White Street. He said those projects cost \$300,000 to \$400,000. He said hopefully they are successful as well.

RC-7 YEAS: McCALL, BARRY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR,
 DELLAPENNA, SOLES..... 6

 NAYS: NONE..... 0

ORDINANCE #14-2 – BILL #5: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, PREVIOUSLY EFFECTIVE, AND AS AMENDED, REPEALED OR OTHERWISE REVISED BY ORDINANCE FROM TIME TO TIME, RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF CITY EMPLOYEES PENSION, ANNUITY, INSURANCE AND BENEFIT FUND OR FUNDS, TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE PENSION PLAN OR PROGRAM APPLICABLE TO THE POLICE EMPLOYEES OF SAID CITY.

MOTION: **Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Mr. Soles, "To adopt Bill #5."**

COMMENTS:

- Mayor Cherepko said these next four Bills are all in regard to the Pension Fund. He said they are just standard of what was recommended by the people who run the Pension Fund. He said does Mr. Elash want to explain the details for the audience.
- Mr. Elash said these are just minor language changes to keep the plan in compliance with the IRS regulations in relation to the contributions through the pre-tax dollars. He

said all four of these Bills are exactly the same. He said he thinks to save Ms. Williams time and effort, she does not have to read the whole titles for the other three but only state which Pension Plans they relate to because they are exactly identical.

- Mayor Cherepko said Bill #5 is for the Police Employees.

RC-8 YEAS: McCALL, BARRY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR,
DELLAPENNA, SOLES..... 6

NAYS: NONE..... 0

ORDINANCE #14-3 – BILL #6: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT PREVIOUSLY EFFECTIVE, AND AS AMENDED, REPEALED OR OTHERWISE REVISED BY ORDINANCE FROM TIME TO TIME, RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF CITY EMPLOYEES PENSION, ANNUITY, INSURANCE AND BENEFIT FUND OR FUNDS, TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE PENSION PLAN OR PROGRAM APPLICABLE TO THE FIREFIGHTERS OF SAID CITY.

MOTION: Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Mr. Soles, "To adopt Bill #6."

RC-9 YEAS: McCALL, BARRY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR,
DELLAPENNA, SOLES..... 6

NAYS: NONE..... 0

ORDINANCE #14-4 – BILL #7: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT PREVIOUSLY EFFECTIVE, AND AS AMENDED, REPEALED OR OTHERWISE

MOTION: Ms. Brewster-Filotei moved, seconded by Mr. Barry, "To adopt Bill #7."

NAYS: NONE..... 0

MOTION: Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Mr. Carr, "To adopt Bill #8."

NAYS: NONE..... 0

-14-

OFFICERS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE SERVICE PERSONNEL AND EMPLOYEES OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY, TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 205, OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS, WAREHOUSEMEN AND HELPERS OF AMERICA, REPRESENTING THE BLUE COLLAR WORKERS OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, SETTING FORTH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS, HOURS, WORKING CONDITIONS AND OTHER BENEFITS.

MOTION: Ms. Brewster-Filotei moved, seconded by Mr. Barry, "To adopt Bill #9."

COMMENTS:

- Mayor Cherepko said Bill #9 and #10 are the contracts that he spoke of in his report.

RC-12 YEAS: McCALL, BARRY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR, DELLAPENNA, SOLES..... 6

NAYS: NONE..... 0

ORDINANCE #14-7 – BILL #10: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICERS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE SERVICE PERSONNEL AND EMPLOYEES OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY, TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 205, OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS, WAREHOUSEMEN AND HELPERS OF AMERICA, REPRESENTING THE CLERICAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKERS OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, SETTING FORTH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT INCLUDING COMPENSATION, HOURS, WORKING CONDITIONS AND OTHER BENEFITS.

MOTION: **Mr. Carr moved, seconded by Mr. Soles, "To adopt Bill #10."**

RC-13 YEAS: McCALL, BARRY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR,
 DELLAPENNA, SOLES..... 6

 NAYS: NONE..... 0

- Mr. McCall said are these both two year agreements.
- Mayor Cherepko said yes.

RESOLUTION #2014-4 – BILL #11: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING MATTHEW GERGELY AS ITS DELEGATE AND ALFRED J. TEDESCO, JR. AS ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY SOUTHEAST TAX COLLECTION BOARD.

MOTION: **Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Mr. Barry, "To adopt Bill #11."**

COMMENTS:

- Mr. Gergely said this is the Board that he sat on for the past two years as a delegate. He said this is the Committee of Tax Collection for Local Earned Income Tax. He said they monitor what is going in and coming out. He said they are now appointing Alfred J. Tedesco as the alternate because their previous delegate is unavailable.
- Mr. Dellapenna said thank you and thank you for the work you have done.

RC-14 YEAS: McCALL, BARRY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR,
 DELLAPENNA, SOLES..... 6

 NAYS: NONE..... 0

MOTION: Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Ms. Brewster-Filotei, "To adopt Bill #12."

- Mayor Cherepko said Bill #12 is to extend the Police Services Contract with Dravosburg. He said without going into too many details, it is an opportunity on behalf of the City of McKeesport to reach to their neighboring communities. He said some of the communities are smaller and in need of shared services. He said he has always said all along that he does not believe in mergers. He said he thinks smaller communities still have their identities and history and he doesn't think that should change. He said he does believe in shared services and the City is there to lend a hand to their neighboring communities. He said the relationship they have with Dravosburg has been wonderful. He said this is just another five year extension to their services over there. He said they look forward to serving them.

CONTROLLER'S REPORT:

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MOTION: Mr. Soles moved, seconded by Mr. McCall, "To approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$30,213.51."

ADJOURNMENT:

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

daw